and Scheduled Tribes vide representation submitted to the Prime Minister on 16th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 has demanded creation of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Authority for centralized formulation of the policy and monitoring of all the developmental schemes and projects for the SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission, which did not find favour the proposal on the ground that the setting up of National SC/ST Development Authority would delink them from the mainstram of development administration and that this would seriously constrain their effectiveness, besides involving heavy administrative expenditure to made the new arrangement work.

Funds under centrally-sponsored schemes to Assam

897. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted under the Centrally-sponsored schemes during the years 1998-99, 1999- 2000 and 2000-2001, so far, State-wise;

(b) whether fund granted for Assam during this period has been utilized in full; and

(c) if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details of the amount released under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, so far, State-wise are enclosed at Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 11]

(b) and (c) A statement indicating funds released under various schemes to Assam their utilization and achievements during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is given below.

Statement

	Post Matric Scholarship to SC & ST students	Book Banks for SCs/STs	Construction of Hostels for SC Girls	Construction of Hostels for SC Boys	Up-gradation of merit of SC/ST students	Juvenile Justice
Utilisation (Rs. in lakhs)						
1998-99	297.15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Not Recd.
1999-2000	N.A.	0.575	3.50	5.00	3.45	Nil
2000-01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Coverage						
1998-99	20.720	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Not Recd.
1999-2000	1.60,171(P)	138	70/14	50/10	N.A.	N.A.
2000-01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.

Backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs

898. VEN'BLE DHAMMA VIRIYO:Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended filling the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by her Ministry and the results achieved; and

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 1st January, 1993 and 29th August, 1997 in Class I, II, III and IV category under her Ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee suggested the methodology to be adopted in situation where the backlog is very high and adequate number of candidates from the reserved communities with the prescribed qualification are not available. The methodology was to relax the minimum qualification and to make provision for giving them special training to enable them to perform their functions effectively.